

REMARKS

By this amendment, claims 1 and 5 have been amended. Accordingly, claims 1, 2, 4, and 5 are currently pending in the application, of which claims 1 and 5 are independent claims.

Applicants respectfully submit that the above amendments do not add new matter to the application and are fully supported by the specification. Support for the amendments may be found at least in Figures 4 and 8 and at page 7, lines 19-25; page 8 line 24 – page 9, line 4; page 10, lines 11-17; page 11, lines 12-14 & 22-24; page 13, lines 11-14 and 16-18; page 14, lines 8-10; and page 15, lines 1-7 of the specification.

No new matters are believed to be added by these Amendments. Entry of the Amendment is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 because it (a) places the application in *prima facie* condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; and (b) does not raise new issues requiring further search and/or consideration by the Examiner because similar subject matter was previously considered by the Examiner and thus further consideration and/or search by the Examiner is not warranted. For at least these reasons, entry of the present Amendment and Remarks is therefore respectfully requested. Accordingly, Applicants request reconsideration and timely withdrawal of the pending rejections for the reasons discussed below.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,552,703 issued to Ushigusa ("Ushigusa") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,726,677 issued to Imamura ("Imamura"). This rejection is moot in view of the amendments made to claims 1 and 5.

Assuming, *arguendo*, that Ushigusa and Imamura may be combined with a reasonable expectation of success, the combined references do not disclose or suggest all of the limitations of amended claim 1. Claim 1, as amended, recites, *inter alia*:

said row driving circuit simultaneously drives more than two of said scanning electrodes and *successively lighting horizontal regions in sequence corresponding to the number of simultaneously driven scanning electrodes*; and

said column driving circuit controls a current flowing in said data electrodes such that a current through said light emitting elements is *proportional to the number of simultaneously driven scanning electrodes* (emphasis added)

Neither Ushigusa nor Imamura, alone or in combination, disclose or suggest such features.

Claim 5 would be allowable for at least the same reasons noted above with regard to claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of claims 1 and 5. Since none of the other prior art of record, whether taken alone or in any combination, discloses or suggests all the features of the claimed invention, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1 and 5, and all the claims that depend therefrom, are allowable.

Claims 2 and 4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Ushigusa and Imamura in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,366,026 issued to Saito, *et al.* (Saito). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for at least the following reasons.

Claims 2 and 4 depend from claim 1, which is an allowable claim. Since Saito does not supply the deficiencies of Ushigusa and Imamura, claims 2 and 4 are also allowable. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of claims 2 and 4.

CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that a full and complete response has been made to the pending Office Action and respectfully submits that all of the stated objections and grounds for rejection have been overcome or rendered moot. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are allowable and that the application is in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative at the number below to expedite prosecution.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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